

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A fatigue relieving/preventing apparatus associated with a steering wheel for controlling a vehicle, comprising:

a first section that connects to an upper one-half (1/2) of a peripheral portion of the steering wheel; and

a rigid, semi-rigid or flexible, or ~~non~~-deformable second section that connects to, and extends from the first section at the peripheral portion of the steering wheel, the second section extends from the first section outward at an angle to a plane across a front face of the steering wheel, the second section for providing resting support for at least a portion of a vehicular operator's body when pressure from the portion of the vehicular operator's body on the second section is less than the pressure for deforming the second section out of interference with the vehicular operator's ability to operate the steering wheel, and deforming out of interference with the vehicular operator's ability to operate the steering wheel when pressure from the portion of the vehicular operator's body on the second section is equal to or greater than the pressure for deforming the second section out of interference with the vehicular operator's ability to operate the steering wheel.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the steering wheel includes the steering wheel for controlling at least a nautical vessel, aircraft, or ground transportation vehicle.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the portion of the body supported by the second section includes at least a forearm, wrist, or hand.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the first section extends a predetermined length of the peripheral portion of the steering wheel.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the second section includes at least two second sections that each connect to the first section at separate locations.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 17 or 18, wherein the first section is deformable.

20. (Withdrawn) A fatigue relieving/preventing apparatus associated with a steering wheel for controlling a vehicle, comprising:

at least two discrete first sections that each connect to a peripheral portion of the steering wheel, and

a discrete rigid, semi-rigid or flexible, or non-deformable second section that connects to, and extends from each first section at a peripheral portion of the steering wheel, each second section extends from the first section outward at an angle to a plane across a front face of the steering wheel, each second section for supporting at least a portion of a vehicular operator's body when pressure from the portion of the vehicular operator's body on the second section is less than the pressure for deforming the second section out of interference with the vehicular operator's ability to operate the steering wheel, and deforming out of interference with the vehicular operator's ability to operate the steering wheel when pressure from the portion of the vehicular operator's body on the second section is equal to or greater than the pressure for deforming the second section out of interference with the vehicular operator's ability to operate the steering wheel.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein the steering wheel includes a steering wheel for controlling at least a nautical vessel, aircraft, or ground transportation vehicle.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein the portion of the body supported by the second section includes at least a forearm, wrist, or hand.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein the apparatus is adjustable for supporting different sizes or types of body portions.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein each first section is formed integral with the steering wheel.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in claim 14 or 20, wherein each first section is detachable from the steering wheel.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein each first section is deformable.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the first section is flexible, rigid, or semi-rigid, or non-deformable.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein the first section is flexible, rigid, or semi-rigid, or non-deformable.